

THE POLYNESIAN. SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1853.

The Argus on Morals.

Overlooking the gross impropriety of parading the names of various members of His Majesty's government before the public, as the editor of the Argus allowed himself to do on the 16th ult.—and assuming to give their views on a subject of morals, and their "practice" in relation to it, it is not a little amusing to notice his misconceptions and blunders. He chops logic as a machine cuts straw, fine enough to be sure, but leaves the entire mass in a perfect jumble. He can see through it, too, if it has a hole in it. A very Daniel, truly!

Wise men, or those reputed so, have sometimes uttered trite sayings, which have passed into proverbs and are used as current coin among all thinking men. We will instance one, and compare it with the profundity of the editor of the Argus.—"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Now every body understands this, and it contains the essence of a very broad principle.—But the Editor of the Argus reverses the adage, and would have us deal with the disease and not attempt its prevention. He says, "true legislation deals with physical, manifest results, and leaves the causes to be moulded or corrected by education." If this means anything, which, perhaps, it does not, it recommends the legislature to jump over all intermediate action, and punish crime, but not to meddle with measures by which those crimes might be prevented. He would abolish houses of correction, and not meddle with vicious youth until they become hardened criminals. He would not disperse a gathering mob, until they had developed some "physical, manifest result," such as arson or murder.

And how does he recommend, upon the particular subject under his pen? We doubt not he will admit, as almost every man readily does, that drunkenness is a mighty physical, social and political evil. We have seen how he would treat it. He would "leave the causes," and deal with "physical results." He would make liquor cheap, by abolishing the duty upon it, and then allow it to be sold without a license, to men, women and children. This is the "education" by which he would have the "causes moulded and corrected!" He would not even shield children from contamination, because to "legislate upon morals is impertinent!" We commend this second Daniel for a law-giver; but it should be in Pandemonium.

That we express his views on this point, is clear, because he attempts to argue that by a reduction of duty the revenue would be increased. How? We all know that the post-office revenue of Great Britain was immensely increased by the reduction of postage, but it was occasioned by the amazing increase of correspondence, consequent upon that reduction. Does the editor of the Argus, and those who hold the same opinions on this point with him, desire to see the revenue of this kingdom increased, by an augmented consumption of spirits? We most sincerely hope, for humanity's sake, that they will change their views, and adopt the truthful maxim, "that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

Another trite saying is, "measures, not men." Here, again, the Argus violates every principle of delicacy and good taste. For instead of taking up the broad subject of the importation and sale of spirits, and exhibiting the great advantages conferred upon the community by their introduction and sale, and thus founding a reasonable argument for granting them special favors, he parades the names of individuals before his readers, as if men, not measures, were the subject matter. Such a course is simply contemptible; and in such a connection he has no right to assume to give the views of individuals, without their special sanction. We know some of them do not think him for it; and that he has reckoned without his host.

But one of the most amusing of all blunders is, that he accuses temperance men with acting from expediency, and not from principle as "those who overstep the obligations of principles, fly to expediency of practice for safety." Now if there be any one thing upon which the friends of temperance pride themselves more than another, it is that they are actuated by "principle." It is from a deep seated conviction that they are right, that they act. It is because they have a sympathy for the brother in danger, that they endeavor to rescue him. It is his good name they would preserve from degradation, not their own merely. His standing in society, they would uphold; his family they would shield; his good they would seek.—This we call "principle," and its converse, expediency.

The foregoing remarks were crowded out of our last week's issue, but they are not thereby out of date. The Editor of the Argus is again out on the same subject, in his paper of the 23d, and ridiculously attempts to explain away his own declaration, and to shirk the application of his own arguments. And after a fruitless struggle to extricate himself from the quag-mire into which he foolishly plunged himself, he falls back upon the "reserved rights" of an unmentioned class, and of society in general, as too sacred to be meddled with by any body.

Now we will simply ask the editor of the Argus if any man, or class of men, have reserved to themselves the right to do wrong? And whether the community has yielded the right to defend itself from injuries inflicted by those who corrupt its morals, degrade its individual members, increase its burdens and expenses, corrupt its youth, and bring misery, penury and want into its sacred circle? And whether they have so pledged their faith to anybody, as to make themselves slaves in a matter vital to every interest of that community? The idea is preposterous, and contrary to every principle of honorable compact. No man or class of men have a right to trifle with the interests of a community in this way. A "reserved right" to do wrong! This is solemn trifling, which the editor should be ashamed of. It is an insult to morality, as well as to a virtuous and intelligent community.

Meeting of the Legislature.

On Wednesday next, the 6th inst. HIS MAJESTY will open the Legislature at the Palace, as will be seen by a notice of the Chamberlain in another column.

But few of the members have yet arrived, and there is some doubt whether a quorum will be convened by the day specified.

Auction sale of bark and tackle.

The condemned bark MAGDALENA was sold at auction on Wednesday, by A. P. Everett, for \$2,025.

Supreme Court.

The April term of the Supreme Court will commence its sitting on Monday next, the 4th inst. at the Court House in Honolulu. The Calendar, we understand, is rather a long one, and will probably occupy the court the whole week, after which the Supreme Court room will be occupied by the House of Representatives for the session of 1853.

San Francisco.—Its Morals.

The following extract is from a letter written to the San Francisco, under date of February 23d. "The past winter has been one of the severest that ever California saw. I was here in 1849, and have been here during this; and the misery, wretchedness and destitution of the past winter have been fearful indeed. Hundreds arriving each week in ill health and with little money, in the midst of a rainy season, has made the city at once an almshouse and hospital.

"But there are other causes which tend to keep things in a more deplorable condition, and the two greatest are intemperance and gambling. These are sucking the life-blood from our society. Those who have little money and no employment, try to mend their fortunes by gaming, and failing in this, drink themselves into forgetfulness. It is enough to make one's heart sick to look about the city. Young men who at home were examples of honesty and uprightiness, here lack moral courage to say NO to the many inducements held out to them. Better, indeed, for them to have staid in their quiet homes, and lived a life of peace and rectitude, with small gains, than to have come here to throw themselves away, and become useless encumbrances."

The above conveys its own moral, and harmonizes perfectly with the representations of every one who has visited that country and this.

Meteorology.

There is no science at the present day that takes precedence of METEOROLOGY, in the attention devoted to it, and in the practical uses to which a more intimate knowledge of its phenomena are being employed. Theories are becoming established by experiments, or discarded for want of basis upon which to rest. Even the laws that govern storms are becoming known, and ships are navigated with almost certain reliance upon them. The enlightened governments of Europe and America are united in making experiments, and in recording observations upon atmospheric and meteoric phenomena, and not an expedition is projected by them without special attention being paid to this department of science.

We have been particularly interested in the observations of Mr. E. Meriam, at the Observatory in Brooklyn, New-York, and present on our first page, some of his remarks, founded upon long experience and observation. His theory in regard to temperature is new to us, and needs confirmation by longer and more extended experiments. It will, without doubt, awaken much attention, and be the occasion of a more concise series of observations in all parts of the world, with particular reference to its establishment.

The letter from which we extract, is addressed to the editor of the Portsmouth Journal, N. H. His reference to our volcano and its influence will doubtless attract the attention of meteorologists here, and lead them to a more critical investigation of its phenomena, particularly on occasions of violent eruptions. No finer field for this class of observations can possibly exist, than on Hawaii.

Resignation.

The resignation of Chas. R. Bishop, Esq. as Collector General of Customs, was tendered to, and accepted by His Majesty in council, on Monday last, and takes effect on the 5th of April. No successor, we believe, has yet been appointed, but one will probably be at the next sitting of the Privy Council, on Monday next. We have heard several names mentioned as candidates for the office, the two most prominent of which are, Mr. Monsarrat, who has long been connected with the Custom House in Honolulu, and Mr. Goodale, formerly connected with the Interior Department, and recently returned from a visit to the United States. In our next issue, we shall probably have occasion to announce the appointment of one of these gentlemen to the post vacated by Mr. Bishop, who retires from the office with a vote of thanks from the Privy Council, for the efficiency and fidelity with which he has discharged its duties, for the past three or four years. The duties of Collector General involve a good deal of responsibility, and the nomination of a successor devolves by law upon the Minister of Finance.

Air Boats for Coasters.

A MEETING to organize a Steamboat Company, to procure and run one or more Ericsson air boats among the islands as coasters was held on Wednesday evening, and was well attended by the right sort of men to make it go. Having an engagement, we had not the pleasure of attending, but are happy to learn that it was decided to form a Company, with a capital of \$50,000; one hundred shares, at \$500 per share; and a committee was appointed to procure subscriptions, and report at an adjourned meeting on Friday evening.

As our paper is made up usually on Friday afternoon, to go by evening coasters to other islands, we are not able to report the proceedings of the adjourned meeting; but from the spirit with which the undertaking has been commenced, and the character of those who have set it in motion, we have strong hopes that sufficient stock will be taken to warrant the order for the boat, by Capt. James Mabee, who is on the eve of embarking for the United States in the Zee. The enterprise has our most cordial wishes for its entire success.

1. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that the establishment of a communication between the Hawaiian Islands by means of one or more vessels to be propelled by engines on the new Ericsson principle will be highly advantageous to the community, as well as remunerating to those concerned in the enterprise.

2. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting that a Joint Stock Company be formed with a capital of \$50,000, in shares of \$500 each, for the purpose of carrying into effect the foregoing resolution by procuring with the least possible delay one suitable vessel.

3. Resolved, That a committee of five be named by the chair for the purpose of procuring subscribers and devising the best means of organizing the proposed company, either by deed of incorporation or charter, and report to an adjourned meeting. The chair appointed Messrs. Montgomery, Mabee, Snow, Ford and Penhallow as a committee, and the meeting adjourned.

Daguerreotype Pictures.

Having gotten their apparatus into good working order, accustomed to the light, &c., Messrs. STANGENWALD AND GOODFELLOW are prepared to take pictures in a superior manner. We have seen additional specimens of their work taken, and can recommend them as fine productions of the art. Give them a call, as their stay in town will not be protracted.

Loss of the Steamer Independence!

132 LIVES LOST!! We have been favored, by one of the survivors, with the following communication, detailing the particulars in brief terms, of the wreck and burning of the steamer Independence, of the Vanderbilt line, on the 16th of February. The names of 130 of the lost are given below, and some ten or twelve, whose names were not ascertained, are also known to be among the dead. Sixteen females, sixteen children, and 100 men, comprise the fearful aggregate.

The cause of the loss of this steamer was, in the opinion of the passengers, gross negligence on the part of the commanding officer and great error in judgment, hard to be accounted for by those acquainted with Capt. Thompson, whose attention to his duties is testified to, by even the surviving passengers. The North America and the Independence, both of Vanderbilt's Line, were lost by running too near the shore, in order to avail themselves of still water and currents; and the inquiry comes up with fearful earnestness. When will the traveling public be exempted from such indiscreet, not to say reckless, tampering with human life? Is it not time for something to be done, to prevent it?

For the Polynesian.

MAGDALENA BAY, LOWER CALIFORNIA, } March 4th, 1853.

MR. EDITOR:—Seldom has it been my lot to depict scenes of misfortune and death. In the wreck and burning of the steamship Independence, the pen performs its work with but mechanical exactness, without influences of any kind save of sadness for the departed and sympathy for the distressed survivors. The passage from San Juan from the 4th to the 16th Feb., had been unusually agreeable. The passengers generally, were respectable, accommodating and contented, and no sign of fever had made its appearance, notwithstanding the ship was crowded beyond all propriety. Time passed slowly but pleasantly, and "all went merry as a marriage bell" till the dawn of the 16th inst. Soon after day-break, while the decks were being swabbed—and consequently, a large number of passengers being up—the ship struck against a rock, the upper part being four feet out of water, about 350 yds. from the bold, rocky shore of the southern point of Margarita Island, about 160 miles above Cape St. Lucas. Nearly all the passengers saw the rock, and many of them before the ship struck. After backing off without difficulty, the leakage increased too fast to keep the ship afloat more than twenty minutes, when she was beached in a small cove, one mile and a half above the southern point of the Island. The bow struck 200 yds. from the shore, just outside the breakers. The passengers were all aft to allow the ship to ground as near the shore as possible. By the water in the hold finding its level in the return flues of the furnaces the usual escape of the flames by the stack pipe was prevented, and consequently the compressed heat in the furnaces escaped through the doors setting fire to the wood-work around. All the water-buckets were in use at the time, but as the smoke arising was attributed to extinguishing the fire in the furnaces, no use was made of them and the passengers not knowing the ship to be on fire were unaware of their danger. During this time, say ten minutes, two boats with the two mates were successively sent with the hawser ashore, the first one swamping and losing the line, and the second reaching the shore with the line, but of little purpose to the ship. Neither the mates, nor the hands mis-called seamen, returned with the boats to the assistance of the passengers. The third and fourth boats, manned by passengers, and filled with women and children were then despatched ashore when they remained like the other two, tossed about on the beach by every breaker. The fire swept through the vessel by the force of the land breeze driving scores of persons to throw themselves hastily overboard, many of them to instantaneous and certain death by drowning. During the space of ten minutes death embraced its victims from every age and condition of life. Awful—dismal and tragical was the scene—too heart-rending for description and too melancholy for recollection.

Some few persons had life preservers, while many others were good swimmers, but so overpowering was the scene upon their feelings, that their courage failed them when most needed, and they sank to a watery grave in company with one another, a sad scene to the first survivors that escaped on shore. When the vessel was in a complete blaze, a single man, a passenger, had the hardihood to take a boat out through the breakers to pick up a boat load of drowning people. By the exertions of Mr. Herron, the Steamer Independence was saved, and the passengers who had collected a portion of the passengers of the wreck, some of them having been carried out to sea two miles from the wreck.

Capt. Simpson was the last person to leave the wreck, and was taken off by a boat. The Purser J. Freeborn, floated part of the way on the main yard of the vessel (which had fallen from its fastening to the mast) but losing his grasp was washed ashore nearly lifeless. No papers of the purser were saved, so that the whole number of persons lost cannot be known at present. From all the information to be gathered at present, the ship contained about four hundred souls, of whom 270 are alive. The names of 120 of the lost are given in the list. Over seventy bodies remained in the deep, the remainder were gathered and buried side by side along the sandy shore.

"Upon the lone barren side they sleep their last sleep." After the ship was burnt to the water's edge the hull was washed against the rocks, and some fifteen barrels of salt provisions taken from the hold. One small sail was saved which answered as a shelter to the women and children during the three days' stoppage on the island. Most of the survivors reached the shore with but little clothing upon their bodies, and all the luggage thrown overboard floated to sea.

The want of water was severely felt, and all means were taken to find it and to distill it. A party of three of us followed the coast of the island 20 miles, subsisting on crabs and muscles, but found no signs of water. On the rocks near the wreck were small holes exuding about a table spoonful of brackish water every minute, around which were gathered day and night, men, women and children, sipping in turn through quills their quota. By the ingenuity of Mr. Collins the engineer, an empty water cask was converted into a water distillery, and doubtless would have furnished sufficient water for the survivors had no assistance been rendered so speedily. The evening of the 2d day a prospector found small holes of brackish water in the mountains at the south end of the island. Prospectors returned the 2d day from across the island stating that they had seen several vessels fifteen miles off, in Magdalena bay, near the main land. On the same evening a party of men took the ship's cannon across the island and by bon fires and discharges of the cannon attracted the attention of the whalers. Before their arrival, however, thirty men carried a boat weighing 1000 lbs. without stoppage to the bay, which was sent forthwith to the whale ships across the bay. Soon after the boat left, a party of whalers came over to the camp, bringing fresh water and hard bread. The cries of thanksgiving produced an uproar not likely to be forgotten by an eye witness on the occasion.

The camp was forthwith broken up, and all hands crossed to the opposite shore, a distance of five miles, where we were all taken across the bay to the whale ships Omega, Meteor, James Maury, and Barker Clement, commanded respectively by Capt. Fisher, Jeffries, Whelden, and Lane. Our reception was most cordial and the hospitality shown us in supplying us with food, clothing and shelter, was generous and open-hearted.

The 1st day of the wreck, Capt. Simpson started in an open boat to go north for assistance, and after being 30 hours, reached the schooner A. Emory, Capt. Gordon, in Upper Magdalena Bay. The schooner started to our assistance, but did not reach the wreck till the camp had been abandoned. She ship Meteor, Capt. Jeffries, was chartered to take the passengers to San Francisco. She sailed the 3d March with 255 souls crowded into the smallest compass. C. R. CULLEN.

Persons lost by the wreck and burning of the steamship Independence.

- Ayer Mrs. M.S. & child, Georgia; Adler Wm. Memphis, Tenn.; Abraham Wm., England; Abraham, J. Ohio; Abraham E. Ohio.
Biggell, Wm. Mich.; Barnum S., Ohio; Brewington K. M., St. Louis, Baker Philip, Mass.; Baqicum Miss Julia, St. Louis; Brown Wm., Mass.; Brown Alex. Mich.; Barnum J. N. Y. Brook W.; Bateman Wm. Ohio; Berwin M. M., Tenn.; Berwin G., Tenn. Brainerd Jas. Ill.; Black E., Albany.
Coke — N. Y., Carrington A. A., wife and child; Chauncey, St. James, Mobile; Coates C. J. (boy) St. Louis; Collins E., England; Carne M. A. and child; Carmichael A., Ohio; Crooks Wm., N. Y., Constantine, France.
Davy R., England; Doyle Wm., N. Y., Drowne Mrs. Ezra, Iowa.
Francis P., England; Frey R. A., R. I.; Ford H. Garrett — Ohio; Garner W. and wife, Cinn.; Grannis Chas., Chicago, Ill.; Hall Mrs. and child; Hule O., Mass.; Howland Mrs. and 3 boys, Wis.; Hatch J. G., Texas; Heartman — N. Y.
Irner — wife and child; Ingols (2 girls) Oregon. Jones T., N. Y.
Kelly Jas., N. O.; Knox, R. A., R. I.; Kelpie J. Cinn.; Kemp Morris; Kertridge, Ala. Ill.
Lacro J., Valparaiso, Loeman P. L., and 2 boys, Mo.; Luce S. P., Conn.; Luckey Martha, Geo.; Linn Henry L. Ind.; Leonard Wm., N. Y.
Moulton W. S., Mass.; Morris John, Albany; Mosher J. N. Y.; Masterman John, Mich.; Myers J. N. Y.; Murphy John, Boston; Muffin Mrs. F. N. Y.; Marvin E. C., Ill.; McCandler Wm. H., Ohio.
Nellis E., P. M.; Nichols David, Geo.; Newell W. Ill.; Oberlee T., N. Y.; O'Hare Martin; O'Neal — N. Y.
Poe W., Louisville; Penway A.; Pruden S., N. Y.; Robinson Mrs. P. and 2 children, St. Louis; Reynolds A., N. Y.; Roberts H. J., Wis.; Reason Jas., N. H.; Scott Allison; Schofield N. A., Penn.; Sparhawk Jno. F., N. H.; Sewell J., Albany; Schmidt Jno. Maryland.
Tarr J. B., St. Louis; Teats Chas., Cinn.; Taylor Robt.; Boston; Taylor E. O. (child) Mich.; Taylor Simon, N. H.; Tallen James, St. Louis; Tully Jas., N. O.
Uestriss Jno., Ill.
Watson Asa W. (boy) St. Louis; Ward Benj. Mich.; Ward Charles A. N. Y.; Williams Jno. Mich.; Weddell B. M. Ind.; Welch Ann, Boston; Whitman Barbara, N. O.; Wilson T. M. N. Y.

A CARD.

WHEREAS, By the wrecking of the steamship Independence, the 16th Feb. on Margarita Island, Lower California, and by timely assistance the passengers surviving said wreck having been rescued from its lone, barren shore by boats from the ships Omega, Meteor, James Maury and Barker Clement; and therefore Resolved by the passengers on board the ship Omega, that

We tender to Capt. Jared Fisher, our cordial thanks for the noble reception and generous hospitality we have experienced at his hands; that these expressions are feeble but sincere testimonials of our gratitude, and that we part with the best wishes and warmest desires for the health, happiness and prosperity of the Captain, officers and crew of the ship Omega.

That, to Mr. James Clarke, the 2d mate of the ship Omega, and to the seamen under his command on the 16th Feb. — most welcome pioneers in furnishing mar to the thirsty, bread to the hungry, hope to the desponding and safety to all, after remaining several days in an open boat in a stormy sea awaiting a steamer, we are under lasting obligations; that as long as memory retains its seat in our frail bodies we shall hold their generous hearts and giant souls in grateful remembrance, that the scenes of their lives may be as grand, ennobling and pacific as the ocean they now sail upon, and that when the winds and storms of life are over, they may anchor peacefully and securely in the haven of rest.

Resolved, in behalf of the ladies on board the ship Omega, that they tender to the Captain, officers and crew of the ship Omega, their grateful acknowledgments for furnishing them a temporary home on the deep, and for making their situation as agreeable, comfortable and happy as under the present circumstances the heart could desire; that if the opportunity for reciprocating the manifold acts of kindness should never occur, it is their fondest hope that his life may never be spared to adorn his family, and that the latter end of his existence on earth may be as serene and heavenly as his present life is manly and humane.

CLAS. R. CULLEN, } Committee.
EZRA DROWNE, }

For the Polynesian.

MR. EDITOR.—If the enclosed account of a New Year's Day in Washington, President Fillmore's levee, &c., clipped from a Philadelphia paper, should prove as interesting to your readers, as it has to me, it will be worthy of an insertion in your paper. One statement may afford a useful hint to His Majesty's advisers here.

Since General Jackson's time, no refreshments are served at the President's levees. The General amongst other good acts of his administration, discontinued this useless and inconvenient custom. This looks like reason and common sense; where the public generally are admitted, refreshments are out of place; abuses will be the result.—And although a King's court, however humble, may not be ordered on the same scale of plain simplicity, as the house of a chief magistrate of a republic, no reason appears why refreshments are less "useless and inconvenient," or more called for at His Majesty's soiree, than at those of the President at Washington. The object in both cases is the same, and that is not to eat and drink, nor to be entertained, but to pay a due respect to the chief magistrate of the nation, an object in which all are interested and therefore none are excluded who are decent and orderly.

The more genteel on such occasions partake of refreshments sparingly, if they take any at all, while a coarser throng who seem to have saved their appetites for the occasion, are always ready to rush in and relieve the tables of their burdens, as though the entertainment was for their special benefit. We go, then, Mr. Editor, for General Jackson's policy in such matters. But if this is meddling with other folks' matters we beg pardon. But for the enclosed scrap we should not have cared enough about the subject, to have written one word. We love to "honor the King," and we love good eating too, but we love still more to have each in its proper place. SENEX.

Our readers will find the article referred to by our correspondent on our first page, under the head of "New Year's day in the Metropolis;" and we invite them to peruse it in order rightly to understand the remarks of Senex. Every thing should "be done decently and in order," and if such is not the case, let a reform take place as suggested above.

CAPT. JOSEPH MAUGHAN.—Upon the reception of the news of the death of Capt. Maughan, a special meeting of the First Hawaiian Guard was called on Tuesday evening at their army. A committee was appointed to draft a preamble and resolutions expressive of the feelings of the Corps on the occasion. The following were submitted and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God to remove from among us one of our number, and one with whom we have been long and intimately associated therefore, Resolved, That in the death of JOSEPH MAUGHAN, the First Hawaiian Guard have lost one of their most honorable members, and our community an invaluable citizen. Resolved, That a deputation of the Company be appointed to convey to the widow and family of the deceased our warmest sympathies in their affliction, and the sincere regrets of every member at the loss of one so universally beloved and respected by all who knew him.

Resolved, That in respect to the memory of the deceased, the Company be draped in black, and the usual badges of mourning be worn on the left arm for thirty days. Resolved, That the above Preamble and Resolutions be published in the public journals, and a copy of the same be forwarded to the family of the deceased.

B. F. SNOW, } Committee.
JOHN MEEK, }
D. P. PENHALLOW, }
ABR. FORNANDER, }

Acknowledgments.

To Capt. Gift, of the Gazelle, Capt Hayes of the Galata, to the captain of the French ship Bolive, Mr. Perrin and Capt. Penhallow, all of whom have furnished us California papers of late dates; we tender our thanks for their favors.

The mail for San Francisco, will close at the Post-office at 3 o'clock, P. M. on THURSDAY next, April 5th, and will be despatched by the clipper brig Zee. This mail will reach San Francisco for the steamer of May 1st.

FOR SPANEX, a mail will be despatched during next week—day uncertain.

SIX DAYS LATER FROM S. FRANCISCO!!

Further Foreign extracts from the Atlantic States and Europe!!

The bark Galata arrived at this port on Wednesday last, in sixteen days from San Francisco, bringing files to the 13th March. We regret to learn by this arrival the loss of the P. M. S. Company's Steamer TENNESSEE, at Indian Cove, near the entrance to San Francisco Bay, on the 6th of March. The preamble and resolutions adopted, at a meeting of her passengers, exculpate Capt. Mellus and his officers from all blame in the loss of the ship, and attribute it to circumstances beyond their control. She went ashore in a dense fog, having mistaken the bluff of the cove, for the South Head.

All her passengers, five hundred and twenty in number, were safely landed, together with their baggage and the United States Mail which was very large, consisting of over 200 bags—70,000 letters, and as many papers. The mail was safely received at the Post Office in S. F. on the afternoon of the 7th, and was distributed the same night, taking six hours for 30 hands to assort it. The TENNESSEE is the first steamer of the P. M. S. Company that has been lost, and her loss would seriously affect the arrangements of the company, upon the coast, were it not for the arrival of the John L. Stevens, just out from New-York, which will immediately take her place in the line. The keel for a still larger steamer has recently been laid in New-York for the same company, which will be ready in October, to take her place in the line.

As our island mail has not yet reached us, we are indebted to the Alta California of March 12th, for the following continuation of foreign intelligence.

ATLANTIC STATES.

Washington.

The Senate passed the bill extending the time of warehousing foreign goods, with an amendment restricting the time for goods intended for consumption to twelve months. Other goods are also to look to the modification of the existing law in regard to the extensive use of Public Bonded Warehouses.

THE SILVER COINAGE BILL.—This measure, which passed the Senate, is yet before the House of Representatives. It allows the silver change of half dollars and under, 6 1/2 per cent. With this reduction, the small coin would bear to gold the ratio of 15-38, say 15 1-4 to 1, which Mr. Hunter, the Senate Chairman of Finance, who reported the bill, says, give a greater value than it bears in Russia, Holland and France.

The late defeat of the bill for the establishment of a branch mint in New York for the want of two or three straggling votes, lays that subject, as a distinct measure, upon the shelf for the present session.

A bill for the re-organization of the navy was taken up in the Senate. Commodore Stockton submitted a batch of no less than sixty-six amendments thereto, which were all agreed to, and the bill was ordered to be engrossed.

The President in a message to the Senate, declines sending the correspondence concerning a modification of Spenser's Nicaragua treaty, because negotiations are still pending.

The Union announces the re-election of Hon. Sam. Houston, as United States Senator.

Mr. Pierce has written a cordial letter to Hon. James Buchanan inviting him to name a member of the Cabinet from Pennsylvania. He would prefer the privilege of nominating Mr. Marcy as the New York member.

Gen. Pierce is said to have waited upon Mr. Meagher, on the arrival of the latter gentleman in Concord. Mr. M. delivered a lecture in the evening, at which the General attended.

Hon. Rufus Choate has been tendered and accepted the attorney-generalship of the State of Massachusetts.

The committee who have had charge of the business of collecting contributions in New York, for the relief of the inhabitants of Madeira, have chartered the brig Tally Ho.

THE INTERNATIONAL COPYRIGHT TREATY.—We are at length enabled to congratulate our readers on the prospect of a speedy settlement of the international copyright question. Among the documents which arrived in the Africa, and for which she was detained twenty-four hours at Liverpool by the British government, is said to be a project of a copyright treaty between Great Britain and this country. It had been executed at Marshfield, by the late Daniel Webster and Mr. Crampton, the British Minister, a short while before the last illness of the former; and having been returned from England, with the sanction and approval of the British government, is now probably under the consideration of Mr. Everett and Mr. Crampton.—N. Y. Herald.

In the House of Representatives of Rhode Island, on the 29th Jan., a test vote on the new liquor law was taken, and decided in favor of the law by 39 to 24.

The Savannah Courier has a letter from Florida which states that the Indians had formally declared war against the United States, and a painful rumor prevailed that Gen. Hopkins and his force had been massacred.

At Barbadoes the bear of life from yellow fever has been great on board H. M. screw steamer frigate Dauntless, 34 guns, 580 horse power, Capt. Edward P. Halsted. Altogether, she lost nine officers and thirty men.

We have advices from Havana to the 22d of January. They indicate the germs of a possible serious disagreement between Spain and Great Britain arising from the expulsion of a British subject from St. Jago de Cuba, by General Medina, without any assigned reason, and without trial as demanded by him. It is alleged that on appeal to the Captain General of Cuba, the act of Medina was confirmed and Mr. Boylan was ordered to leave Cuba, and that the whole proceeding was in revenge for Mr. Boylan's assumed complicity with the commander of a British steamer in the capture of a Spanish slave-trading ship.

The mother of the new emperor of France is said to be nearly related to Bishop Fitzpatrick of Boston, (Roman Catholic).

EUROPEAN NEWS.

Our advices from London are to the 21st, from Liverpool to the 2d, and from Paris to the 20th of January.

England.

The only event of political importance is a statement made by Lord John Russell to the Commons, that he holds office only ad interim, and will soon resign his office to the Earl of Clarendon. The Earl of Dalhousie is appointed Constable of Dover, and Warden of the Cinque Ports. Lord Drumlanrig (Peelite) had been elected for Dumfriesshire, Scotland—Sir Wm. Jardine, the naturalist, by whom he was opposed, having withdrawn.

The Oxford University election is still protracted, Mr. Gladstone slightly ahead of his competitor, Percival.

A new line of Australian steamers is projected under the name of the "Australian Direct Steam Navigation Company," to ply by way of Panama or any part of Central America that may ultimately be found more desirable. Capital, one million in £25 shares.

The Gazette contains a notice from Lord John Russell that the British Government has declined from the Ottoman Porte an official announcement of the blockade of the Adriatic coast from Delgo to the extreme Turkish frontier, by the Turkish fleet.

The celebrated case of Achilli against Newman again before the court, and is exciting some interest among the partizans of those gentlemen.

The London Daily News announces that "M. Kosuth is, it is understood, about to pay an embassy visit to America, where the election of a Democratic President has given many of his admirers new influence."

France.

From France we have little beyond the details of the Imperial appointments.

The Prince de Vagram has resigned in disgust his position of Senator, because he was not appointed "Grand Huntsman;" which office, he maintains, was made hereditary by the first Napoleon, in the family of Marshal Perthier.

M. Duvin is thought to have still the intention to accept the post of Procureur-General at the Court of Cassation.

Capt. Belzeve is appointed Commander of the Naval Station of Newfoundland; and Col. Brunot replaces Col. Delafaye in the military command of Martinique.

The Ministers of Tuscany, Baden and Hanover presented their credentials to the Emperor on the 8th inst. M. Kisselef has been credited as Russian Minister at Paris. On the 7th, the Ministers of Bavaria and Wurtemberg presented their credentials.

Mr. Rives, Minister of the United States, had presented his credentials at the Tuilleries, to the Emperor. The presentation took place with the same ceremonial as on late similar occasions. The Ottoman as well as the Prussian and Austrian Ministers also presented themselves officially near the Emperor.

It is stated in commercial circles that Government has concluded a contract with the Messageries Nationales, in conjunction with M. Levasseur, the great ship owner, for the establishment of a line of steamers to ply between Cherbourg and the ports in North and South America. The Company, it is said, have undertaken to supply 53 screw